

# All About Carlsbad

## OVERVIEW

The students are introduced to Carlsbad as a city, its history and current City Council members.

## OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- Learn why, how and when Carlsbad became a city.
- Recognize that the City of Carlsbad, like the United States of America, operates as a democracy in which the majority rules.
- Learn more about decision making in preparation for mock council meeting.

## PREPARATION

Review both activities and materials. Remember that this is the first “Carlsbad-specific” lesson. As such, it is a lesson in which many of the terms in the Carlsbad Rap will be defined. Also remember (especially if you are in an EUSD or SMUSD school) that there will be children who live in other cities, so when possible, you will want to relate how Carlsbad is similar to and differs from its neighbors. For instance, each city has a city seal, but they are all different. Display the City Council photo chart and start off with the rap.

## MATERIALS

- 1 City Council Photo Chart
- 1 classroom set of “Carlsbad Becomes a City” booklet
- 1 class City Seal
- 1 classroom set of student Thumbnail sheets
- 1 classroom set of student My City Seals
- 5 Carlsbad Zone Photos

## CONCEPTS

History • Carlsbad government • Democracy

## SKILLS

Spelling • Listening • Reading out loud • Art creation

## VOCABULARY

**Mayor:** the elected official who heads the five-member City Council. The Mayor is the chief spokesperson for the Council and appoints people to the many volunteer boards and commissions that help the Council make good decisions for Carlsbad. The Mayor and Council members may be women or men.

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## TIME

Introduction/Rap: 10 minutes

"Carlsbad Becomes a City" booklet: 15 minutes

Decision Making: 5 minutes

City Seal Discussion/Creation: 15 minutes

## PRESENTATION

Start off with at least the first verse plus refrain of the Carlsbad Rap. (If there is time and inclination, do the entire rap.) Explain that many of the ideas in the Rap will be explored in this lesson.

### "Carlsbad becomes a city"

Hand out copies of the "Carlsbad Becomes a City" booklet. Go around the class, calling on students to stand and read a page. Separate the longer pages into sections so everyone has a chance to read. Note: Check with the classroom teacher before beginning this activity. To avoid embarrassing any students, have the better readers read the longer sections. Ask the less accomplished readers to read the shorter sections.

## INFORMATION TO IMPART ABOUT OTHER CITIES

- Oceanside, Vista, Encinitas and San Marcos are neighboring cities to Carlsbad.
- These cities all have their own city seals, employees and Mayors/City Councils, but they all operate in the same democratic way.
- Many roads go from city to city to city. Some examples are El Camino Real and Palomar Airport Road/San Marcos Boulevard.
- Some children who live in San Marcos, Vista, Encinitas and Oceanside go to school in Carlsbad. (Ask: Do any of you?)

## DECISION-MAKING

Now is a great time to preview the underlying concept of decision making. At the final class the students are going to participate in a "mock" City Council Meeting. Everyone will have a role to play.

Take a few minutes just to make sure the students understand that reasonable people often agree, but they can disagree as well. You may also preview this material just before the Mock City Council begins at City Council Chambers.

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## Here is one suggested way:

Some decisions are easy to make. Should you wear a helmet when riding your bike? (Yes!) Is it ok to litter? (No!) Are fruits and vegetables better for your health than doughnuts and soda pop? (Yes!) If someone asks you to with them when they steal candy from a store, should you go? (No!) Ask the class for some other examples of easy decisions.

Some decisions are not as easy to make. Let's say your class is going to have a picnic. Should you make hamburgers or hot dogs? Some people might say hot dogs, because they're quick and easy to cook on a grill. But other people might say that hamburgers taste better. The hot dog group might respond that hot dogs are cheaper. That's true, say the hamburger people, but hamburgers are more filling so you would only eat one of them instead of two hot dogs.

The best way to resolve an issue like this is to get as much information as you can, discuss it, ask people for their opinions and then take a vote. If the majority of your class wants hot dogs, that's what you'll have. If a majority chooses hamburgers, you'll have hamburgers.

Explain to the students that the City Council has to make hundreds of decisions every year. Most of the decisions are complicated, so Council members reach them by relying on research, listening to people who will be affected by the decision and discuss the issues before voting.

## "Let's learn about the city seal"

There are two sections to this activity. First, the students will learn about the Carlsbad City Seal. Then, they will create their own, on class time with the help of the teacher. NOTE: Ask your classroom teacher beforehand if the students can complete this activity on their own. Be sure to provide the materials.

### SECTION ONE

Post the large color Carlsbad City Seal where students can easily view it. With the help of the students, point out and discuss each element of the seal. (See Fast Facts 101, #s 42 and 43 for additional information.)

Introduce the concept: In 1958, the City held a contest to design a City Seal, with a prize of \$25 awarded to the winner. Major Albert F. Rinehart's design won. It incorporated several symbols that the City Council thought best represented the City of Carlsbad.

Tell students that they will see different renditions of the City Seal next week when they take a field trip to City Hall. A tile mosaic is displayed in City Council Chambers. A Lego mosaic is displayed at City Hall.

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## EXPLANATION OF SEAL ELEMENTS

Point to the elements (or have students come up and help you) and discuss their significance, one by one:

- The triad (three connected triangles) represents the three elements that oversee Carlsbad City government: 1) the Mayor; 2) the other four Council Members; and 3) the City Manager.
- The hatchet in the triad is a longtime symbol of democratic government. The inclusion of the hatchet may derive from the Iroquois Indians' "Great Law of Peace." According to this Native American legend, a Peacemaker brought warring people together and told the warriors to bury their weapons – thus the phrase, "bury the hatchet." Seen this way, the hatchet represents a democracy in which disagreements do not lead to violence. (In our next lesson, the students will learn first-hand how people may disagree in a respectful manner.)
- The three elements around the triad represent features that make Carlsbad a uniquely delightful place to live.
- At the top, the sun and sea represent the great climate and coastal location.
- At the bottom left is the City's official flower, the bird-of-paradise. (If you visit the northeast corner sidewalk of Carlsbad Village Drive and Carlsbad Boulevard, you'll see artist James Hubbell's bird-of-paradise artwork in a tile mosaic).
- At the bottom right is a cornucopia, which symbolizes the many food crops once grown in Carlsbad.

## SECTION TWO

NOTE: Please give this activity instruction sheet to the teacher along with the student seals. In the event this activity cannot be completed in the time allotted, the classroom teacher completes the lesson with the students. Show the students the Carlsbad Zone photos. Ask the students: What do you think makes Carlsbad a great place to live, work, play and go to school? Decide what is important to you about Carlsbad. This would be your symbol of Carlsbad. Tell the students that now it's time for them to create their own City Seal!

Continue with the lesson using one of the following options:

- **Option 1:** Use the Thumbnail sheet as a warm up exercise. Pass out the Thumbnail exercise sheet to each student. Once they've completed the Thumbnail exercise, pass out the large black-and-white City Seal sheet. See CREATE YOUR OWN CITY SEAL below to complete the activity.
- **Option 2:** Pass out the large black-and-white City Seal sheet, one to each student. See CREATE YOUR OWN CITY SEAL below to complete the activity.

## CREATE YOUR OWN CITY SEAL

Tell the students: Draw your symbol inside the blank City Seal circle. Use bright, colorful markers or crayons to decorate your symbol and the entire City Seal. Encourage them to get creative with their use of colors. Tell them to put their name on the paper and to write a short explanation of their symbol and what it means to them.

## SHOW AND TELL

As time allows, have the students come to the front of the classroom. Ask them to describe their symbol and

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explain why they chose it. NOTE: In the future, we may collect and display some of the outstanding city seals. You might want to capture one or more in a photograph for use in a CityStuff publication.

## Student City Seal Exercise

*Submitted by CityStuff volunteer, Shelley Lang, Ed. D*

Students, today you are being asked to create your own Carlsbad City Seal. Artists always begin their work by creating a rough draft or a sketch of what they want to do. Often artists create what is known as a “thumbnail sketch.”

### Step #1

Please take your time and create four thumbnail sketches of symbols that represent “You in Carlsbad.” Several suggestions and ideas for inspirations are listed, but use your imagination, ideas, and remember your past experiences in Carlsbad.

- Favorite hobby or pastime outside: flying kites, baseball, skating, the beach, surfing
- Favorite restaurant or fast food
- Nature: lagoons, beach, Carlsbad Flower Fields
- Entertainment: Legoland, beach, city parks, movie theater
- Education: school event, library
- Family Experience: picnic, hiking, sports








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## Step #2

Go to My Big City Seal sheet. You can pick one of your thumbnail sketches or divide the circle into either three or four sections. Be sure to use a ruler. Now you are ready to select three or four of your symbols and place them inside the sections you have created. Make your pictures large and try and fill in each space.

Here are examples:

